

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB MY

SUBJ: FURTHER DELAY ON IBRAHIM ALI REPORT

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4192

1. SUMMARY. THE GOM WILL MAKE A DECISION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IBRAHIM ALI REPORT WITHIN SIX MONTHS. THE AFFECTED LABOR UNIONS ARE STILL DISCUSSING WHAT ACTION THEY WILL TAKE BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THERE WILL BE A NATIONWIDE STRIKE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AUG 1 DEADLINE SET BY THE CONGRESS OF UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC AND CIVIL SERVICE (CUEPACS) FOR GOM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IBRAHIM ALI REPORT HAVING PASSED (REFTEL), PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN MET WITH CUEPACS OFFICERS AUG 10 TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR MOHAMED, WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING WITH FINANCE MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND LABOR MINISTER LEE SAN CHOON, INFORMED THE PRESS THAT HUSSEIN TOLD CUEPACS LEADERS THAT THE GOM WILL MAKE A DECISION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT WITHIN SIX MONTHS. MAHATHIR SAID THAT HUSSEIN EXPLAINED WHY THE GOM NEEDED MORE TIME TO STUDY THE REPORT AND ASKED THE UNIONS TO BE PATIENT. (HE DID NOT DIVULGE THE GOM'S REASONING IN ANY DETAIL.)

MAHATHIR ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE GOM CABINET COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE REPORT WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT TO THE VARIOUS STATE

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GOVERNMENTS FOR COMMENT SINCE THEY WOULD BE AFFECTED.

MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE ARGUMENTS PUT FORTH BY PM HUSSEIN
"APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE UNION LEADERS AS FAR
AS COULD BE MADE OUT."

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT T. NARENDRAN, PRESIDENT OF THE
CUEPACS, CALLED THE TALKS "FRANK," BUT SAID THAT THE UNION
SIDE WILL MEET NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE MATTER.
NARENDRAN REPORTEDLY SAID: "THE FINAL DECISION ON WHAT
OUR NEXT STAND OUGHT TO BE IN LIGHT OF TODAY'S MEETING
WILL BE LEFT TO THE AFFILIATED UNIONS CONCERNED."

4. COMMENT: AS PREDICTED REFTTEL, IT APPEARS THAT CUEPACS
IS FOLDING IN THE FACE OF THE GOM'S DETERMINATION TO DELAY
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IBRAHIM ALI REPORT UNTIL IT IS READY
TO DO SO. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME TALK ABOUT INDIVIDUAL
UNIONS VOTING ON WHETHER OR NOT TO AUTHORIZE A STRIKE,
ESPECIALLY AROUND AUG 1, IT STILL SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THERE
WILL BE A NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SERVICE STRIKE NOW THAT TTI GOM
HAS INDICATED A TIME LIMIT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
REPORT; HOWEVER, WILDCAT STRIKES BY LOWER PAID WORKERS IN
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENT-AFFILIATED FIRMS
ARE POSSIBLE.
UNDERHILL

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